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International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

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Adoption of the final outcomes of the International Meeting

Draft report of the Main Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Perina J. **Sila** (Samoa)

Draft strategy for the further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

1. At its __ meeting, on __ January, the Main Committee approved the following changes to the text of the draft strategy for the further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (see A/CONF.207/L.1) and recommended them to the International Meeting for adoption.

2. Paragraph 23 (f) was revised to read:

> 23. (f) Establish or enhance the necessary infrastructure, legislative and enforcement capabilities to ensure effective compliance with, and implementation and enforcement of, their responsibilities under international law. In this regard, until such action is undertaken, small island developing flag States are encouraged to consider declining the granting of the right to fly their flag to new vessels, suspending their registry or not opening a registry. [agreed]

3. Paragraph 24 was revised to read:

> 24. Distant-water fishing nations are encouraged to provide small island developing States with adequate technical and financial support to enhance the effective and sustainable management of their fisheries resources. [agreed]

4. Paragraph 20 (g) became 26 bis, to read:

> 26. (bis) Small island developing States and the international development partners should fully implement the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, particularly with the support of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), by

undertaking initiatives specifically addressing the vulnerability of small island developing States. [agreed]

5. Paragraph 31 was revised to read:

31. The Fourth World Water Forum, to be held in Mexico City in March 2006, and its preparatory process will be an opportunity for the small island developing States to continue to seek international support to build self-reliance and implement their agreed priority actions as submitted to the Third World Water Forum Portfolio of Water Action, namely: integrated water resources management (including using the Hydrological Cycle Observing System); water demand management; water quality capacity-building; water governance; regional water partnerships; and inter-small island developing State water partnerships. [agreed]

6. Paragraph 34 was revised to read:

34. Most small island developing States face serious challenges of land degradation as a result, inter alia, of inappropriate land use and poor irrigation management systems. Since the main objective of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification is to address land degradation, and considering the designation of GEF as a financial mechanism of the Convention, small island developing States should fully utilize available GEF resources to develop and implement projects to address land degradation through sustainable land management. In this regard, every effort must be made for the full implementation of the Convention. [agreed]

7. Paragraph 38 (c) was revised to read:

38. (c) Ensure adherence to national forest policies and legislation that has been developed to safeguard rights of resource owners and legitimate or licensed users through administrative and management mechanisms for alienation, licence or transfer of "traditional rights" for commercial development purposes; [agreed]

8. Paragraph 38 (d) was agreed following agreement on the revised paragraph 38 (c).

9. Paragraph 49 (g) was agreed.

10. Paragraph 49 (j) was revised to read:

49. (j) Developing human and institutional capacity for research in biodiversity, including taxonomy, at the national and regional levels in small island developing States; [agreed]

11. Paragraphs 63 and 64 were revised to read:

63. The adoption by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly of resolutions on a smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries is welcomed, and they need to be fully implemented. The two States the General Assembly has recently resolved to graduate from the list of least developed countries are small island developing States, and all of those which are currently potential candidates for graduation from least developed country status are small island developing States. It is critical that the elaboration and implementation of

national smooth transition strategies formulated with development partners takes into consideration the specific vulnerabilities of graduating States and ensures that graduation does not disrupt their development plans, programmes and projects aimed at achieving sustainable development. [agreed]

64. The United Nations Committee for Development Policy has made useful progress in better reflecting the vulnerability of developing countries that face special disadvantages, such as small island developing States, in its recommendations concerning least developed country status; the Committee's ongoing work in this regard is encouraged. [agreed]

12. Paragraph 74 bis (a) was revised to read:

74 bis. (a) Strengthening the health management and financing systems of small island developing States to enable them to arrest the HIV/AIDS epidemic, to reduce the incidence of malaria, dengue and non-communicable diseases and to promote mental health; [agreed]

13. Paragraph 78 was revised to read:

78. Small island developing States and the international community recognize that the further implementation of the Programme of Action, Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, as well as the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, are mutually reinforcing. This will require a more focused and substantially increased effort, both by small island developing States themselves and by the rest of the international community, based on the recognition that each country has primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, taking fully into account the Rio principles, including, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities as set out in the principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. [agreed]

14. Paragraph 79 was revised to read:

79. To assist small island developing States in this regard will require:

(a) Substantially increasing the flow of financial and other relevant resources, both public and private, and ensuring their effective use; [agreed]

(b) Improved trade opportunities;

(c) Access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies on a concessional or preferential basis, as mutually agreed;

(d) Education and awareness-raising;

(e) Capacity-building and information for decision-making and scientific capabilities;

(f) National country-driven and country-owned strategies for sustainable development, including poverty reduction and resilience-building. [agreed]

15. Paragraph 81 was revised to read:

81. The international community reaffirms its commitment to support the sustainable development of small island developing States through the provision of financial resources, inter alia, access to existing funds and financial mechanisms, such as the relevant operational programmes of GEF, and underlines the crucial involvement of the donor community, including the international financial institutions and regional development banks. [agreed]